

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1203
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to designate May 16-22, 2004, as "National
Emergency Medical Services Week" in
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is difficult to overestimate the importance of emergency medical service providers to the effectiveness of the overall health care system in this State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's emergency medical service providers make invaluable contributions to the quality of our lives and provide us with the finest of medical care, manifesting at all times their knowledge, skill, training, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services consist of a system of organized care involving emergency medical technicians, paramedics, physicians, nurses, firefighters, first responders, rescue squad members, dispatchers, pilots, educators, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee are keenly aware of the courage and commitment of this State's over 30,000 firefighters in 670 full-time and volunteer departments, the 11,200 or more paramedics and emergency medical technicians, the 3,500 first responders, the almost 12,000 law enforcement officers, and the hundreds of emergency room physicians and nurses who are the first called upon to save lives and treat the injured during catastrophic events; and

WHEREAS, the 87th General Assembly and Governor of the State of Tennessee formally established emergency medical services as a component of the State's health care system in May 1972; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's system of emergency medical services has since provided a vital health service in emergency care and ambulance transportation of the injured, ill, and infirm; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee hospitals operate trauma centers, burn centers, helicopter ambulances, and special care units to meet the needs of injured patients; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's emergency departments and emergency personnel continue to improve care for pediatric patients through the Emergency Medical Services for Children program; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's emergency medical service providers devote many hours to training, practice, response, and service, and are proud of their commitment to the health and safety of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the General Assembly should pause to honor the professionals and everyday citizens who have contributed to the development of emergency medical services in this State and those physicians who are engaged in the practice of emergency and trauma medicine and who provide quality emergency medical care in conjunction with the ambulance services, fire departments, hospitals, and emergency response agencies in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate May 16-22, 2004, as "National Emergency Medical Services Week".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend those citizens who contributed to the formation of Tennessee's emergency medical services program, and honor those citizens throughout the State and the nation who are stalwartly committed to providing emergency medical services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.